



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Doctor Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15th in the year 1929; and

WHEREAS, his family's long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta began with his grandfather in 1914; and

WHEREAS, he was pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and led the first modern African American nonviolent demonstration in the United States, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted 382 days and during which he was subject to arrest, abuse, intimidation and attack; and

WHEREAS, in December 1956, the Supreme Court of the United States declared the laws requiring segregation on buses unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, he traveled over six million miles, spoke over 2,500 times, wrote five books and numerous articles, was awarded numerous honorary degrees, planned the drives in Alabama for African American voter registration, was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C. and delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech to roughly 250,000 people; and

WHEREAS, he was the youngest man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of thirty-five, the monetary award from which he announced would be turned over to the furtherance of the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, on the evening of April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march, he was assassinated.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINCOLN D. CHAFEE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM,

January 17, 2011

as

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all citizens to join in recognizing that.

In recognition whereof, I have hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to be hereunto affixed this 14th day of January 2011.

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State